

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 17, 1848.

Submitted, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRIGHT made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the petition and accompanying papers in the case of Hugh Wallace Wormley, report:*

That after a careful examination of the statement of the petitioner, and the evidence offered to support the same, they arrive at the same conclusions contained in a report made by the Committee on Naval Affairs of the Senate, 2d session, 27th Congress, in this case, which report your committee adopt, and make part hereof.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.—April 26, 1842.

*The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No. 192, granting a pension of two hundred and twenty-five dollars per annum during life to Hugh Wallace Wormley, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

That the same ought not to pass. The claim of Mr. Wormley to a pension is not supported by any testimony, and rests entirely upon his own statement and certificates that he is an honorable and worthy man.

The case, as stated by the petitioner, is, that he was a midshipman in the navy, and in March, 1801, was attached to the Maryland, commanded by Captain Rogers, and sailed from Baltimore to Havre de Grace, in France. That the passage was boisterous, and nearly every day wind and cold. That they had but two watches, four hours on and four hours off alternately, and this severe duty brought on a violent cold through his system, and finally terminated in his head, and fell in his eyes, so that he was under charge of the surgeons till his return to Baltimore, and was then under the charge of a distinguished oculist for six months, and the result is that he has lost entirely the sight of his left eye, and the sight of the other was impaired.

In August, 1801, Wormley was discharged under the peace establishment. In March, 1802, he was reinstated as midshipman, and ordered to join the Chesapeake. In May, 1803, he was ordered to the frigate Philadelphia, and was taken prisoner by the Tripolitans in October, 1803, and liberated in June, 1805, and returned September, 1805; and on 19th September, 1805, he was appointed second lieutenant of the marine corps, and resigned in May, 1806. His application to Congress for a pension was made in 1840.

Considering the great lapse of time which has occurred since the alleged cause of disability, and that the petitioner was reinstated as midshipman in 1802, and served in that capacity until 1805, and was then appointed second lieutenant of marines, it would require very strong evidence to convince the committee that the present disability was the result of injury received in 1801.

The only fact proved in the case is, that after his return from Havre de Grace he was placed by his father under the care of a distinguished oculist in Baltimore, where he remained six months, and soon after he was reinstated in the service. The committee cannot think that a pension should be granted under the proof and circumstances of the case.